

**FACT SHEET ADDENDUM FOR
NPDES PERMIT WA-002449-0
MAY 2005**

CITY OF EVERETT

This document describes proposed modifications to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Waste Discharge Permit No. WA-002449-0, issued to the City of Everett on July 1, 2004.

Extension of interim limits for discharge from the Trickling Filter/Solids Contact (TF/SC) System to the Snohomish River (Outfall #025):

At the time the permit was issued (July 2004) the City of Everett expected to be able to begin discharge of effluent through the new outfall to Port Gardner Bay by September of 2004. Subsequent problems with the effluent pump station have delayed full operation of the new outfall and require continued discharge to the Snohomish River. This permit modification changes the effective dates of the final effluent limits (Section S1.) to allow the City enough time to complete the necessary repairs and testing.

Provisions for maintenance of Outfall #025:

Outfall #025 discharges to the Snohomish River and has been used to discharge effluent from Everett's TF/SC plant. After the new outfall and pump station are in operation, Outfall #025 will be operated only for routine maintenance flushing and during emergency hydraulic events to prevent flooding. The maximum frequency of these maintenance discharges will be once per week for no more than three hours. During the low flow months these discharges, in combination with the regular discharge from the lagoon outfall, must not exceed the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations for Everett's discharge to the Snohomish River. This permit modification adds provisions for sampling and reporting these discharges to Sections S1.C. and S1.D.

Port Gardner Bay mixing zone dilution factors:

The Effluent Mixing Study for Outfall 100 (CH2M Hill, September 2004) has been reviewed and approved by Ecology. This report satisfies the requirements of the permit (Section S9.) and establishes the dilution factors for the Port Gardner Bay outfall (Outfall #100). This permit modification includes the acute and chronic dilution factors in Section S1.E.

Reuse of effluent for non-contact cooling water:

The City of Everett and Kimberly-Clark have developed an operating agreement for use of treated effluent in a non-contact cooling water system at the mill bleach plant. Section S15 has been added to the permit to authorize this use of the effluent. The Department of Health has been added to the cover page of the permit.

The State of Washington Water Reclamation and Reuse Standards (Standards) specifies Class C Reclaimed Water for industrial cooling purposes where aerosols or other mist are not created.

RCW 90.46.030 authorizes the Department of Health (DOH) to issue permits for commercial and industrial uses of reclaimed water through the Department of Ecology (ECY) administrative permit system. Article 6 of the Standards authorizes the DOH and ECY to accept methods of treatment other than those specified within the Standards provided the applicant demonstrates to the agencies mutual satisfaction that the methods of treatment and reliability features will assure an equal degree of treatment, public health protection and treatment reliability. DOH and ECY have determined that the use of the permitted secondary treated and disinfected effluent meets this requirement for use as cooling water in the Kimberly-Clark closed loop system under the provisions of this permit.

Public Involvement Information

The Department published a Public Notice of Draft Permit Modification on January 13, 2005, in the *Everett Herald*. Interested persons were invited to submit written comments regarding the draft permit modification. The Department's response to all significant comments is included in this document and will be mailed directly to people expressing an interest in this permit.

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS ON PERMIT MODIFICATION

Comments from Jeff Wright, City of Everett:

The City of Everett requested that Sections S9. Effluent Mixing Study and S13. Sediment Monitoring be changed because these reports have already been submitted to Ecology.

Response:

The Effluent Mixing Study Report and the Sediment Sampling and Analysis Plan and Sediment Data Report, developed by Kimberly-Clark for the Port Gardner outfall, have been submitted to and approved by Ecology. These permit conditions have been fulfilled, and no further requirements apply at this time to the City. However, it is not necessary or appropriate to modify or remove these sections from the NPDES permit.

Comments from Frank Meriwether, Department of Health:

Mr. Meriwether notes that the *Permit Writer's Manual* recommends daily sampling for fecal coliforms for an activated sludge plant of greater than 5 MGD. The manual is perhaps unclear regarding the frequency of fecal coliform testing for lagoon and trickling filter systems. However, with maximum monthly flows of 15.3 mgd (lagoon system) and 16.0 mgd (trickling filter), it would appear that daily sampling for fecal coliforms would be appropriate and recommended for Outfalls #015 and #100.

Response:

The sampling frequency for the City's outfalls is 5 times per week. This is more frequent than would be required by an exact reading of the Permit Writer's Manual recommendations for lagoons and trickling filters. A change to this sampling frequency is outside the scope of this permit modification.

Mr. Meriwether's other comments are in regard to the clarity of sampling requirements for the maintenance discharges from Outfall #025.

Response:

This testing will be included in Section S2. Monitoring Requirements.

Comments from Heather Trim, Urban Bays Project Coordinator, People for Puget Sound:

Mixing zones and dilution. People For Puget Sound is opposed to the use of mixing zones for persistent bioaccumulative toxins and metals. The mixing zone regulatory approach does not take into account the cumulative impact of loading of pollutants into Puget Sound. Water quality in Puget Sound is ultimately impaired by the addition of pollutants, especially toxic chemicals, whether or not they are diluted. The concentration of copper, lead, silver, and zinc in wastewater at the actual discharge point (i.e., end-of-the-pipe) must meet biologically appropriate water quality standards. We request that effluent limitation for this facility be placed on the discharge itself, not on a mixing zone, for persistent bioaccumulative toxins and metals.

Response:

Washington water quality standards allow and Ecology has authorized a mixing zone for this discharge. Ecology evaluated the permit application and assessed the discharge within the context of the water quality standards, Chapter 173-201A WAC. The larger issue of persistent bioaccumulative toxins is being addressed on a statewide basis. (See <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/eap/pbt/pbtfaq.html>)

In addition, we request that closer scrutiny be placed on bis (2-ethylhexyl) phthalate concentration levels in the effluent and biosolids for this facility, especially because it is a combined sewer system. Phthalates are a significant concern due to accumulation in the sediment in over half of the Superfund sediment sites in the nation as well as potential human health impacts in our environment.

Response:

This chemical will be monitored under the pretreatment requirements of this permit.

Monitoring. As is described in the documents associated with this facility, an adequate amount of ambient and receiving water monitoring data is unavailable. People For Puget Sound requests that receiving water sampling stations and an ongoing regular ambient and receiving water monitoring program be established as part of the NPDES permit requirements for this facility.

Response:

Sufficient ambient data were available to calculate appropriate permit limits for this facility. Further monitoring requirements are outside the scope of this permit modification.

Port Gardner Bay – Nearshore Health. People For Puget Sound request that thorough analysis of this location, including sediment studies, be performed before the new outfall is permitted.

Response:

These studies were performed for the new outfall by Kimberly-Clark as required by their NPDES permit.

WET. People For Puget Sound supports the requirement that whole effluent toxicity (WET) testing be conducted for this facility.

Response:

Comment acknowledged.

Interim Limits. It is not clear that TMDL waste load allocations for the Snohomish River will be met by this facility during the interim period using the “bubble” strategy. People For Puget Sound requests that the effluent concentrations as well as concentrations of constituents in the river be carefully monitored and that a provision be provided for a reevaluation at the end of the first summer period.

Response:

The “interim limits” will not apply during any future summer period. They were needed only during the summer months of 2004, and are already outdated.